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**REPORT,**

OF

**THE YOUNG MEN'S**

**Missionary Society,**

OF

**SOUTH-CAROLINA.**



READ AND ACCEPTED,

AT THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY,

MAY 13, 1822.



Charleston:

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1822.

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## Report.



The Board of Directors of the Young Men's Missionary Society of South Carolina, in presenting their third annual report, would acknowledge with gratitude the smiles of Divine Providence over their infant institution during the past year. In all their operations the goodness of God has been manifested, and his blessing, it is humbly hoped, has followed the feeble attempts which have been made to diffuse abroad the inestimable privileges of his Gospel. Uniting in its efforts, and embracing in its numbers, persons of different Christian churches, they have noticed with pleasure the spirit of unanimity and affection which has prevailed in all their deliberations, and has characterized all their exertions. When any diversity of sentiment has existed, this diversity has been productive of no injury to the general harmony of the Society, or has it ever retarded the progress of their operations in carrying into effect the objects of the institution.

It is with grateful impressions that the Board recognize the favourable interposition of a superintending Providence, in preserving the lives of its members, and in enabling them to prosecute their designs unmolested by difficulties, or depressed by misfortunes. Immediately on the appointment of the present Board, they directed their attention towards the attainment of a missionary for the summer months, an object much desired, and which had hitherto been impracticable. On the 21st of May they made choice of

the Rev. Mr. Gibson, to act as their missionary in the destitute parts of the districts of York and Chester. His engagement was limited to four months. The flattering prospects which this mission afforded were suddenly blasted by the unexpected and lamented illness of Mr. Gibson, which compelled him to relinquish altogether his appointment. On the 28th of May, the Board authorised the Committee of Missions to employ two missionaries for the ensuing autumn. On the 3d of June, the anniversary sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Brown, in the second Presbyterian church, and the sum of \$120 collected in aid of the funds of the Society. On the 7th of August, the Committee of Missions reported, that they had given a call to the Rev. Mr. Sherwood, a Baptist clergyman, to perform a mission of six months in the service of the Society, and that the Corresponding Secretary, then on a visit to the northern States, had been authorized to procure a Congregational or Presbyterian missionary for the same period. The Committee also recommended to the Board the employment of a missionary from the Methodist denomination, which the Board authorised them to do.

The application of the Board to the Rev. Mr. Sherwood, for missionary service, failed in consequence of his previous engagements, and the important duties which devolved upon him in the station he then occupied. The letter of Mr. Sherwood indicated the deep regret which he felt in being compelled to decline a call so unanimously made by the Board, and promising so useful and extensive a field of labour. The Corresponding Secretary was enabled to engage but one missionary during his absence to the north—the Rev. Daniel B. Johnson, of the seminary at Princeton.



His efforts to obtain one from the Baptist denomination were unavailing, in consequence of the pressing demands which is made by that church for the labours of all their clergy, to supply the destitute parts of the country.

On the 2d of November, the Rev. Mr. Johnson was elected by the Board for the term of six months to missionate in those parts of the districts of York and Chester and their vicinity, as should promise the most extensive usefulness. In the prosecution of this mission Mr. Johnson has experienced much to encourage his heart and to awaken his gratitude to God.

The following interesting extracts from his report, will shew the manner in which Mr. Johnson has been employed :—

“ The field, which the Committee of Missions directed me to occupy, was such parts of Chester and York districts, and their vicinity, as might promise the most extensive usefulness. Each of these districts embraces an extent of country about 30 miles in length, and 20 in breadth, and they unitedly contain a population, (according to the last census,) of nearly 30,000, including the blacks. They are supplied with only five Presbyterian ministers. There are ministers of other denominations; but the precise number I could not ascertain. The only way then to present an adequate view of the wants of the country will be, by specifying vacant congregations and destitute settlements that came within my knowledge.

#### VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

*First Station.* Chester and Purity congregations, about three miles apart, situated in Chester district.

Purity, a Presbyterian congregation, was once large and flourishing; but it has been nearly 12 years destitute of a settled minister; and, having had only about two years stated supply, with other occasional supplies, it has become considerably shattered and dispersed.

This is the most important vacancy in Chester district. And agreeably with my instructions, (which were "to select two or three important permanent stations for the Sabbath,") at the request of the Elders, concluded to supply them half of my time for about 4 months; in the mean time supplying other vacancies, as occasions presented.

A legacy has been left in the hands of the Elders towards building a new church; which will probably be commenced as soon as they can obtain a settled minister, of which they have now a prospect.

*Second Station.* Yorkville and Beersheba congregations, about 6 miles apart, the most important vacancy in York district.

Beersheba, a Presbyterian congregation, has been supplied by the Rev. Mr. Adams; but arrangements were making for having it supplied by the teacher of the Bethel Academy in York district.

Preached at this station only a few times, as I was passing through the country.

*Third Station.* Kings-creek, Long-creek, and Olney churches, belonging to the Presbyterian denomination—forming a circle in which they are about 9, 10, and 12 miles apart; the former situated about 12 miles from Yorkville on the line between North and South Carolina, the other two in North Carolina. El-Bethel and Washington churches, open to all regular denominations, the first about 6 and the other 9 miles from Long-creek; and Messrs. Stroup's, Abernatta's and Toullennwider's Iron-works, about 6 or 8 miles from some one of the above stations, would also probably demand the attention of a missionary.

If the people in these places were united, they might with the greatest ease, support more than one minister; but as it is, they will probably require the fostering hand of some missionary society till a change takes place. The most of these congregations are at present exceedingly feeble.

On this station spent one month under the direction of the York District Benevolent Society; should

have spent a longer time had they not have expected another missionary.

*Fourth Station.* Beckhamville Church, about 20 miles south of Chester, where I preached one Sabbath. The people were then raising a subscription for a minister one half of his time. This place, in connexion with some neighbouring places, and also those who are working on the canal near there, merit the attention of the Society.

*Fifth Station.* Saunder's Church, about 14 miles west of Chester, which belongs to the Baptist denomination, and who are anxious for a minister. It would perhaps be well for the Society to send a Baptist Missionary there, as it is a pretty important situation.

There is another vacant Baptist Church on Ruin's Road, about 11 miles north west of Chester. But this is in a very feeble state at present.

At each of these places I preached once, and in the neighbourhood several times.

#### OTHER VACANT STATIONS,

OUT OF THE BOUNDS OF MY FIELD OF LABOUR.

*Sixth Station.* Beaver Creek Church, and others in the neighbourhood, where they are able to support a minister and are anxious for one. There is now a prospect of this station being supplied.

*Seventh Station.* Sumterville and Concord.—Was informed that a minister ought immediately to be sent there, who would be willing to settle.

*Eighth Station.* Providence and Unity Churches, the latter in York District, the former in Mecklenburg County, N. C. This is a very important station, lately left vacant by the removal of the Rev. Mr. Morrison to Fayetteville.

#### PREACHING, &c.

There were so many vacant congregations, and hence so much need of preaching in various parts of the field allotted to me, that this was made my principal object. As my appointments were generally published at least two or three weeks beforehand, (a course which the scattered population rendered necessary,)



the word was more extensively circulated, and hence larger audiences attended. The Churches on the Sabbath, and private houses on week days or evenings of the week, were generally filled, often crowded, and sometimes overflowing. In several places, many who have been long destitute of preaching and anxious for it, have heard the joyful sound. The word has generally been heard with attention and solemnity, and sometimes with considerable feeling.—Have preached, in general, nearly every day in the week; sometimes every day. The subjects which have principally been dwelt on, are those contained in the excellent summary of the Constitution of the Young Men's Society. And agreeably with the principles of that Constitution, have also endeavoured to cultivate a spirit of harmony with other denominations; and accordingly have had the pleasure of several united meetings with their ministers, and on other occasions have been heard by many of different denominations. Have also visited many families as occasions presented or circumstances allowed; and have conversed about the things of the kingdom, and the importance of securing the salvation of the never-dying soul. These visits have been well received; and sometimes apparently attended with a blessing.

Have been treated with perfect kindness and hospitality wherever I have been, which merits, and has received my unfeigned thanks; and this should occasion gratitude to God, as well as every other favourable token manifested towards the missionary cause.

#### THE BLACKS.

The blacks in the upper country, in comparison with the lower, are not numerous; many families have none at all. Have preached frequently to them in various parts of both districts; and in some places frequently to the same audience, particularly in Chester and Purity congregations; for as I supplied them nearly half of my time, the afternoon was generally devoted to the blacks. It was truly gratifying to witness their close, and solemn and eager attention to



preaching—often dissolved in tears; and sometimes crying with anxiety what they should do to be saved.

In some places there has been considerable good done. Planters have informed me that the blacks have laid aside many of their bad habits and practices, and have become much better servants; but whether the reformation will prove abiding, time must determine.

Fidelity to their masters on earth, and diligence in their proper work, have been inculcated, as well as fidelity to their master in heaven, and solicitude for their souls' salvation; which being understood by the whites, there have been but few, if any objectors. The condition of the blacks is far better than is generally believed abroad. On many plantations there are pious blacks able to read, who conduct religious exercises; such as prayer, singing, and exhortation. Their prayers have been truly astonishing for their fervour, their feeling, their richness and their propriety. And as far as my information extended, the blacks were well treated. Indeed the circumstance of planters generally being so willing to have their blacks instructed, shews the sincerity of their kind treatment.

On my way to York and Chester, and on my return, spent a Sabbath at Salem Church on Black river, about 100 miles from Charleston, and on both occasions preached to the blacks. On the last, a communion season, addressed about 300: to whom the people cheerfully resigned the greater part of their seats in the Church.

#### CATAWBA INDIANS.

In the first report published by the Board, there is a desire expressed to obtain information respecting the Indians in this State. The only remaining tribe is a small remnant of the Catawba nation, about 150 or 200 in number, dwelling in two small villages, on the banks of the Catawba river, about 25 or 30 miles from Chester-ville, situated on what is called "The Indian Land," which is 15 miles square. This land is principally leased out to the whites. What little land they have remaining in their possession, is partly and miserably cultivated by their squaws; who also make neat earthen ves-

sels of various descriptions, which they dispose of for provisions among the whites in the neighbourhood. All that the other Indians do for their support, consists in hunting and fishing, so that they are exceedingly poor. When among the whites, where they occasionally go to dispose of their articles of trade, they dwell in tents provided for the occasion, generally selecting such situations as will afford suitable clay for the making of their vessels. In their villages they have poor, miserable huts, without neatness, cleanliness or convenience. They adorn themselves with trinkets; but pay little attention to the decency and cleanliness of their persons; and as little to the purity of their morals. Drunkenness is a prevailing sin among the old and young of both sexes, and to an awful extent—prostituting the little remnant of reason that they seem to possess. The Sabbath, with but few exceptions, is regarded no more than any other day. Several attempts have been made by ministers of different denominations to civilize and evangelize them; but have for the most part proved fruitless.

There is now among them an Indian preacher by the name of Marsh, of the Baptist connexion, from a tribe of Indians formerly residing in Virginia, but now extinct. He is said to be a sensible, humble, and pious man, and a good preacher. His efforts, however, do not appear to have had much effect.

Whether it would be prudent for the Board to do any thing for these Indians must be left to their own decision. But if a missionary should be sent in the neighbourhood, perhaps it would be well to visit these children of nature, and see if none of them can be made children of grace, by the introduction of schools as well as preaching among them.

GOOD DONE.

Besides what has already been mentioned, it may be safely said, that, at least in several places, a greater desire for preaching has been excited. Christians have been revived and animated, and had their former joys restored; and a few individuals have been awakened to a sense of their guilt and danger, and have enter-

tained a hope of pardon through the atoning blood and perfect righteousness of Jesus, their Redeemer. But though little of the seed sown has yet made its appearance, there is enough to encourage the Society to go forward in their work and labour of love; and to induce them to trust, even if more of the fruits of their labour do not come to their knowledge in this world, that eternity will disclose many trees of righteousness which have been transplanted into the paradise of God from the soil which their beneficence has cultivated, and which has been watered by the tears of the children of God."

From the result of Mr. Johnson's mission, the Board feel much encouraged in their efforts, and have the fullest confidence to believe that through the medium of this Society, the most important benefits will be communicated to the cause of Zion in this section of the country.

On the 12th of November the Board elected the Rev. Mr. Brown, who had acted as their missionary the preceding year in the district of Edgefield, and appointed him a mission of three months in the village of Walterborough and its vicinity. Mr. Brown was referred for his instructions to the Missionary Society of Walterborough, under whose directions he has acted. He has performed a mission of six months, having been employed for the last three months by the Society of Walterborough. The report of Mr. Brown presents several flattering indications, that the day is not far distant when that destitute region shall be a fruitful field, when the stated ordinances of God's word will be enjoyed among them, and when the wilderness and solitary places shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. The following extract from his journal will afford a brief view of the manner in which he has conducted his mission :



“I have usually preached in the village on Sabbath morning, and a few miles distant in the evening. I have also held a stated lecture in the village on Wednesday evening, and have a part of the winter preached out of the village on Thursday and Saturday. On Sabbath evening I have usually attended a Bible class, conducted principally, however, by Mr. Martin. It appears well adapted to the state of society in this place, and I hope will prove extremely useful. We have observed the Montly Concert Prayer Meeting, and also a weekly meeting for prayer. I have met weekly with four or five persons for the purpose of studying the Epistles in a systematic manner. I have visited from house to house more or less, as my other duties would allow, and as the weather would permit. The abundant rains during the winter, and the extreme badness of the roads, have prevented me from extending my visits to the surrounding country as much as intended, and also prevented the people of the country from attending preaching on the Sabbath as much as they might otherwise have done. In the village there has been quite a disposition to attend, and a pleasing interest manifested.”

In the month of December the Board made an effort to obtain a Baptist missionary, in consequence of their failure in their previous applications to Mr. Sherwood, and at the north ; but this effort proved unsuccessful. In February an application was made to the Bishops and Conference of the Methodist Church, then in session at Augusta, for a missionary of that denomination, to be employed by the Society for one year. In consequence of having appointments for all their ministers, the Conference were unable to furnish one for the service of the Society. The Board deem it their duty to state, that, though no missionary from the Baptist or Methodist Church, has been employed by the Society, yet the repeated applications which have been made for this object, furnish the amplest



testimony, that no sectarian feelings influence their operations, and that in their endeavours to send out missionaries from all the denominations of which they are composed, they have been actuated by the sincerest desire that each church might share in the blessings of this Society. They are assured also, that their failures, in obtaining missionaries, have arisen altogether from the inability of those to whom they applied to furnish them, and not from any indisposition to unite with them cordially in all their operations.

In reviewing their labours during the past year, the Board indulge the hope, that though their exertions have been limited, they have not been altogether in vain. It affords a pleasing reflection that they have been instrumental in conveying in any degree the unspeakable blessings of the gospel to their destitute brethren in the state, and of building up, in some measure, the waste places of Zion. The painful moral desolations which are still seen in many parts of South-Carolina, urge, in the strongest terms, the importance of increased exertion on the part of the Society ; and call, in the most powerful manner, upon Christians in this city, and upon all who regard the welfare of their fellow beings, to make a concentrated effort to relieve the thousands who are starving for the bread of life.

Much inconvenience has resulted from the want of unity of action with the different Missionary Societies of this and the adjoining States : To obviate this difficulty the Board would avail themselves of this opportunity, respectfully to recommend a plan, which has already been suggested, of employing a Missionary who shall be supported by the different Societies of the Carolinas and Georgia, who may unite in this project : The object of whose mission shall be to itinerate through this

and the adjacent States, for the purpose of forming Missionary associations, and ascertaining the most important posts for missionary labour. Let him be the centre of communication between the different Societies who may employ him—Let him be specially devoted to the interest of the missionary institutions, and use his influence and exertions to awaken a deeper interest and kindle a more glowing zeal among the friends of Zion and humanity in the great and good cause which the Societies are designed to promote. This plan, it is confidently believed, if prosecuted, would give a new impulse to the efforts which are now making, and advance, in a most effectual manner, the rising interest of the Redeemer's kingdom. It is not the province of the Board to inquire into the causes, which have produced the moral wastes around them—they feel it to be their duty to unite their endeavours to supply them with the means of grace and the hopes of salvation.

There is no obstacle in the way of scattering the light and the glory of the Gospel in every part of the State. The means are abundant, the disposition is daily becoming more general. From the labours of the missionaries already sent out, much has been accomplished. The seed that has been sown will not be lost. Souls awakened by their instrumentality may yet arise to proclaim to an unbelieving world the value of missionary institutions. An object so transcendently benevolent and glorious as the redemption of sinners, has claims upon the attention of Christians which are superior to all other. And when every individual may lend his aid to this object, cold and grovelling and death-like must be the soul that can slumber away his days in listless indolence and inactivity. What though discouragements arise, and difficulties stand in the way

of the moral renovation of our country ? What though a wide and appalling desert spread itself to the eye, in which spiritual darkness and death hold their gloomy empire—in which are hundreds of families that have scarcely heard of a Saviour, and are walking with steady steps towards the prisons of final despair ? What though the treasury of the Lord is almost exhausted, and the charity of a Christian community ready to close its avenues of mercy, under the pressure of frequent demands ? None of these things are to check in the least the efforts, or to darken the prospects of the friends of Domestic Missions. In appealing to every pious heart in behalf of the cause which they have espoused, the Board feel assured that it is an appeal which is sanctioned in Heaven, and pressed home to the conscience with awful energy, by the graceless condition of such multitudes in our own State. It is true, the work of evangelizing the nations is the work of the Lord. The enlargement of the church is secured by the promise of Jehovah. The darkness that rests on the uninstructed and unconverted millions will be chased away, and a spiritual brightness shall cover the earth. But never will this glory be revealed, till the Gospel is preached to every people ; till a mightier effort than ever yet has appeared in the Christian world, shall be made ; till there is a disposition co-extensive with Christendom, to spread abroad the fulness of the Gospel of Christ.

# Dr. Young Men's Missionary Society of S. C. in acc't. with G. E. Hahnbaum, Tr'r. Cr.

1822. To Cash, paid for Missionary services, {	\$633 60	1822. By Balance of account rendered May 14, 1821.	\$169 83
May 13 printing, &c. - - - - - }		" " Life Subscription from Benj. H. Buckner, -	20 00
Balance - - -	\$122 3	do. do. Richard G. Lawrence, -	20 00
		do. do. Robert Means, -	20 00
		do. do. Peter Gerard, -	20 00
		do. do. D. W. Hall, -	20 00
		do. do. Thomas Napier, -	20 00
		" Cash, donations from sundry persons, -	56 00
		" do. collected at the second Presbyterian } church, June 3d, 1821,	118 25
		" do. collected by the Rev. Mr. Brown, at } Edgefield, during his mission, as fol-	-
		lows, viz:	-
		At Red Bank Church, - - - - -	18 00
		At Academy, or Blocker Settlement, -	13 50
		At Court-House, - - - - -	78 75
		At do. coloured people, -	7 30
		" do. received for annual subscriptions, -	174 00
	\$755 63		\$755 63
	-	By Balance - - - - -	\$122 3

GEO. E. HAHNBAUM, *Treasurer.*

**AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.**—This certifies, that we have examined the accounts of Geo. E. Hahnbaum, Treasurer of the Young Men's Missionary Society of South-Carolina, from May 14, 1821, to May 13, 1822—found them correctly kept and well vouched. The above is a correct abstract of the same, and there is now remaining in his hands a balance of Cash amounting to \$122 03.

SAMUEL J. WAGNER, ROBERT MISSILDINE.

(Signed)

May 13, 1822.



THE TREASURER  
OF THE  
**Young Men's Missionary Society**  
OF SOUTH-CAROLINA,

Acknowledges the receipt of the following sums, (per  
the Rev. D. B. Johnson, the Society's Missionary,) as contributed in aid of the funds.

At Salem Church, on Black River, Sumter district,	-	\$	10	00
At Yorkville Court-House	- - - - -		4	75
By the York District Benevolent Society	- - - - -		33	33
At Chester	- - - - -		22	00
At Purity Church, near Chester	- - - - -		37	25
By the Masonic Lodge at Chester	- - - - -		10	00
By the Coloured People in and near Chester	- - - - -		4	25
By the Members of Bethesda Congregation in York district, to constitute their Pastor, the Rev. Robert B. Walker, a life member			20	00
Donation by Rev. R. B. Walker	- - - - -		3	00
By the Members of Fishing Creek Congregation, in Chester District, to constitute their Pastor, the Rev. John B. Davies, a life member	- - - - -		20	00
A donation	- - - - -		5	75
By several Baptists in Chester District, to constitute the Rev. Samuel McCreary a life member	- - - - -		20	00
By Rev. Daniel B. Johnson, the Society's Missionary, to constitute him a life member	- - - - -		20	00
		\$	210	33

GEORGE E. HAHNBAUM,  
*Treasurer Y. M. M. S. S. C.*

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AND

## MEMBERS

OF THE

### Young Men's Missionary Society

OF

SOUTH-CAROLINA.

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 Van Brundt, Richard  
 Venning, J. M.  
 Wagner, S. J.  
 Walker, John  
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 Wish, Richard S.  
 White, Rev. E.  
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